

Application No. 10/044,106

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph on page 4 of the specification, beginning at line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

FIGURE 1 is a simplified block diagram of a virtual private network (VPN) 10 configured in a hub-and-spoke configuration with a firewall as the hub 12 according to the teachings of the present invention. Hub 12 is a customer edge (CE) device of Site₁ 16, which is coupled to a provider edge (PE) device 14 of a provider's network. A site is defined by a Request for Comment (RFC) 2547bis as a collection of customer routers with IP connectivity. Virtual private network 10 is a set of sites, including Site₁ 16, Site₂ 18, Site₃ 20, and Site₄ 22. Provider edge device 14 may be directly or indirectly coupled to customer edge devices 24-28 of Site₂ 18, Site₃ 20; and Site₄ 22, respectively. Communication to and from an extranet 20 30 is done via customer edge device CE₁ 12, which is the firewall. According to the teachings of the present invention, this is done using a route target filtering scheme which does not have the disadvantages of conventional methods.